

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

10 November 1986

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

La Salle University is holding a posthumous testimonial dinner for Bob Ames, one of CIA's most splendid officers who was on temporary emergency duty at the American Embassy in Beirut in April, 1983 and was killed in the bombing of the Embassy. His family and friends at the Agency, as well as La Salle University and myself, would appreciate your signing this letter in tribute to his memory.

Yours,



William J. Casey

Attachment:
Draft Letter as Stated



P-309-1R

Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., Ph.D.
President, La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Brother Ellis:

I congratulate officials, alumni, students, and friends of La Salle University for their recognition of a distinguished alumnus and truly superior Federal employee, the late Robert C. Ames.

There can be no sadder and yet no more fitting duty for one who holds the office I hold than to pay tribute to Americans who have given their lives in the service of their country. The sadness I felt on that rainy Saturday evening in April 1983, when the flag-draped coffins bearing the remains of Bob Ames and his companions reached Andrews Air Force Base, is still with me. So, too, is my anger toward those whose violent act took their lives and the lives of loyal Lebanese employees.

The world is complex and the Middle East especially so. To know the Middle East as Bob did so well, and to advise properly and eloquently those of us who relied so much upon him, required a special degree of wisdom.

More than that, Bob and those other gallant Americans showed us in their lives and tragic deaths a deep sense of purpose. They recognized the danger they faced and yet they went willingly to Beirut. Bob, in his special role, like the others in theirs, tried to assist people who look to this country believing in America's sense of justice, America's fundamental decency. Quite simply, Bob and his companions were trying to keep the barbarians of the world from having their way.

La Salle's motto, I am told, is "Virtue and Knowledge." In both the wisdom and the dedication of Bob Ames, I cannot imagine any better fulfillment of that motto.

It is written, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Bob Ames was a true peacemaker. We thank God for him. And we thank you, too, men and women of La Salle. In honoring Bob Ames you rightly honor yourselves.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.
(703) 482-7676

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

6 November 1986

DCI:

Per your request here is the proposed letter for the President's signature to Brother Ellis at La Salle University on the occasion of the dinner honoring the late Bob Ames.



George V. Lauder

STAT



P-309-1R

DCI:

Brother Patrick Ellis, President of La Salle University, has asked if you would request a letter from President Reagan honoring the late Bob Ames. The University wishes to have the letter read at the testimonial dinner that you are addressing on Thursday, 11 December.

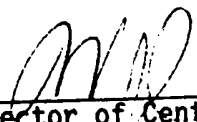
If you ask the White House for a letter, you may wish to reference the speech that the President gave at the time the bodies were brought back from Beirut. (See attached.)



George V. Lauder

STAT

Yes, I will ask the White House for a letter:



Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 3 NOV 1986

No, prefer not to ask for a letter:

Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: _____



P-309-1R



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

29 October 1986

Phone: (703) 351-2053

Mr. Edward Turzanski
Deputy Director, Alumni
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA 19141

Dear Mr. Turzanski:

This is to confirm arrangements for CIA Director William J. Casey's address at the La Salle University testimonial dinner in honor of Robert C. Ames on Thursday, 11 December, in Philadelphia.

According to our conversation, the proposed format for the evening is for the reception to begin at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:45 p.m. followed by 10 - 15 minutes of remarks given by the Director. We ask that a podium with both mike and neck mike be available. Adjournment is scheduled for approximately 9:00 p.m. We request that you do not put out an advance press release. Also according to our conversation, you are expecting members of the print media as well as commercial TV and radio to cover the event. Please keep us informed as to the press coverage that you expect. The Director does not normally give press interviews. As you are aware, the Agency is providing assistance to the La Salle Communications Department in audio and videotaping selected parts of the testimonial dinner and the symposium for the historical record. If you plan to publish his remarks, please give us the opportunity to review the material prior to publication.

Enclosed as you requested, is a photograph and biography of the Director. Closer to the time of the event, we would appreciate receiving short biographies of those people who will be meeting and hosting the Director. We also ask that you send us an agenda, the symposium and dinner program, and a diagram of the head table seating.

Thank you for your kind attention to these nitty-gritty details and for the information that you have already provided. If you have any further questions on the arrangements for the event or if there is anything I can do to help you, please feel free to call me on (703) 351-2053.

Sincerely,



Public Affairs

Enclosure

STAT



1-3091K



George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

STAT

STAT

20 October 1986

DCI:

Please sign the letter of acceptance
opposite. [redacted] of HIC notified
La Salle University that you are unable at
this time to invite the President.

[redacted]

George V. Lauder

SIGNATURE

[redacted]

PAO [redacted]

/20 OCT 86

Distribution:

[redacted]

STAT

DCI
EXEC
REG

P-309-15

Washington, D.C. 20505

27 OCT 1986

Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., Ph.D
President, La Salle University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19141

Dear Brother Ellis:

I accept with pleasure your invitation to speak at the testimonial dinner given by La Salle University in honor of the late Robert C. Ames on Thursday, December 11, in Philadelphia.

As the Director of Central Intelligence, I am honored to be paying tribute to such an outstanding American as Robert C. Ames who served his country so well and was a fine representative of our Intelligence Community.

A member of my staff will be in touch with you to make the logistical arrangements.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

PAO [redacted] /20 OCT 86 [redacted]

Distribution: [redacted]

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